

COPYING OTHERS' WORK

Two teachers of Pabna univ accused

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Two assistant professors of Pabna University of Science and Technology have allegedly plagiarised from a book in their joint paper published in an academic journal last month.

Editors of the book requested the University Grants Commission (UGC) and Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) recently to take action against the teachers.

Assistant professors Awal Kabir of the social work department and Yahia Bapari of the economics department have allegedly copied almost an entire chapter of a book.

The book they allegedly copied from is titled Engaging in Educational Research: Revisiting Policy and Practice in Bangladesh. Four Bangladeshi teachers are editors of the book published in 2018 by Springer.

The two PUST teachers' article titled "Evolving Realities and Changing Perspectives: A Study of Education System in Bangladesh" was submitted to Science Publishing Group on March 28 this year.

It was accepted on April 12 and published in an academic journal on April 23. Amid allegations of plagiarism, the publisher took it down from its website.

The incident took place only two months after three Dhaka University teachers were demoted over plagiarism.

It was evident in an examination of both the papers that the article by Awal and Yahia was plagiarised from the abstract to conclusion to references of the first chapter of the aforesaid book.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



A boy uses a "tapal", which is needed for boiling paddy in rural area, as a makeshift dinghy and rows in a water filled ditch. The photo was captured from Barishal city's West Sagardari area yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Thousands still in storm shelters

STAR REPORT

Several thousands of people in coastal regions are still staying at cyclone centres, embankments or other shelters as their homes remain submerged under tidal surges following Cyclone Yaas.

Dwellers of Khulna's Koyra upazila and Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila have been among the worst victims of the natural disaster which struck on May 26.

Besides, vast areas of farmland in Pirojpur have gone under water, forcing farmers to incur large losses.

Around 5,000 people in 38 villages in Koyra, compelled to leave their homes last Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, could still not return home as of yesterday.

Entire areas including farmland, homes and other structures of these villages are still submerged. Road communications in these villages are completely suspended with people moving from one place

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Police looking for int'l gang members

Some India returnees, suspects in custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police in Bangladesh are looking for the suspected members of an international gang which has been trafficking young women to India and forcing them to become sex workers.

The women they target are mostly the users of video-sharing app TikTok.

In the last two days, the capital's Hatirjheel police took three India-returnee victims in custody and detained four boys, sources said.

But police have yet to officially acknowledge that the victims and the suspects were in custody.

Police officers are taking along the victims while raiding different places, an official said, adding that they are also interrogating the people close to Ridoy

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

UK PM marries fiancée in 'secret ceremony'



AFP, London

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his fiancée Carrie Symonds married over the weekend, his office confirmed yesterday, in what media reports have described as a "secret ceremony".

He is only the second British prime minister to marry while in power, and the first in nearly two centuries. The last was Robert Jenkinson in 1822.

"The Prime Minister and Ms Symonds were married yesterday afternoon in a small ceremony at Westminster Cathedral," a Downing Street spokesman said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Khaleda's fever under control

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson

Khaleda Zia's fever is now under control and she will recover within a day or two, party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

The government is depriving her of better treatment, Fakhru said at the grave of BNP founder and former president Ziaur Rahman while paying tribute to him on his 40th death anniversary.

"The Awami League is destroying the state's democratic system intentionally," he said, adding that the ruling party is ruining political environment.

The BNP leader called the entire nation to be united to "recover democracy".

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bhashani rules out any political settlement

MAY 31, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

BHASHANI'S PRESS CONFERENCE

Rejecting straightway the proposals for a political settlement of the issues involved in the present revolt against Yahya Khan in Bangladesh. Maulana Bhashani expressed surprise and resentment today at the total inaction on the part of socialist countries swearing in the name of liberation of the oppressed people. While speaking at a press conference, Bhashani placed facts before the newsmen to make it quite clear that the present conflict in Bangladesh was nothing but a revolt of the people against the continued exploitation by the rulers, feudal lords and bureaucracy of West Pakistan. Nothing but the acceptance of the demands for a sovereign independent state of Bangladesh would settle the issue. It was a revolution, he said, of the people and not "imported from any country, far less a socialist country."

He said that the revolution in Bangladesh was no less important than the revolution in China and Russia. "It is a total revolution by the people of Bangladesh and it is duty of the people and the governments of all countries to support this revolution," said Bhashani.

Maulana Bhashani was thankful to the people and the government of India for the correct attitude taken towards Bangladesh and the relief extended to the lakhs of refugees who were taking shelter in India.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Sylhet people in fear after series of earthquakes

Another light tremor yesterday morning

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

After four mild tremors and several aftershocks from Saturday morning to afternoon, Sylhet experienced another light tremor of magnitude 2.8 at 4:35am yesterday, panicking people.

Experts warned that these series of light tremors could be sign of a major quake and requested the authorities concerned to take precautionary measures.

Meanwhile, a six-storey residential buildings was found tilted in Sylhet city's Ponitula area after the earthquakes.

Prof Dr Syed Humayun Akhter, of geology department at Dhaka University, and also the director of Dhaka University Earth Observatory, said the location of the tremors were at the hilly terrain right in the upstream of the Sari river in Jaintiapur upazila, which is the eastern part of Dauki Fault Line.

Dauki Fault Line is a major fault along the southern boundary of the Shillong Plateau that may be a source of destructive seismic hazards for the adjoining areas, including in northeastern Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

HEFAJAT FUNDING

Most of it came from the Middle east

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A major portion of the funding for Qawmi madrasa-based organisation Hefajat-e-Islam has come from the Middle East.

The finance especially came from expatriate Bangladeshis for various purposes which include aiding the Rohingya community, helping madrasa students and welfare of Hefajat.

There also have some local financiers who used to provide money to Hefajat.

Police's detective branch (DB) has come up with the disclosure yesterday.

While addressing

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING MAY 31

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-43 8-05
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-47 8-35

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Locals voluntarily repair an embankment in Dashaia area of Khulna's Koyra upazila yesterday. The dam was damaged due to tidal surges caused by cyclone Yaas. At least 38 villages have been flooded as water from a river entered in the localities.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

India records 50pc drop in daily cases

Delhi restrictions extended till June 7; Italy extends entry ban for India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

AGENCIES

The meteoric rise of Covid-19 cases during the second wave that overwhelmed the health infrastructure in India is now being matched by an equally steep decline in infections.

In just three weeks, the seven-day average of daily cases has fallen to half the number recorded at the peak of infection on May 8.

India yesterday reported its lowest daily rise in new infections in 46 days at 165,553 cases during the previous 24 hours, while deaths rose by 3,460.

The average fell below 2 lakh on Saturday and stood at 1,95,183 almost exactly 50% of the peak of 3,91,263, as per TOI's Covid database collated daily from state government figures.

The 50% reduction in average daily cases in the second wave has come in half the time as compared with the first wave of the pandemic in the country.

The South Asian nation's tally of infections now stands at 27.9 million, with the death toll has reached 325,972, health ministry data showed.

India will have nearly 120 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines available for domestic use in June, the government said yesterday. This marks a significant jump from the 79.4 million doses that were available in May.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1